for the Kutch region and only an amicable settlement with the beneficiary States could benefit Gujarat.

(d) and (e) As in (b) and (c) above respectively.

Implementation of Water Resources Policy

3655. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any water resources policy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the latest position with regard to the implementation of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The National Water Policy, 2002 (NWP) has been adopted by the National Water Resources Council in April, 2002.

(b) The salient features of the National Water Policy, 2002 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) The NWP states that its success will depend entirely on envolving and maintaining a national consensus and commitment to its underlying principles and objectives. For achieving the desired objectives, the NWP stipulates formulation of State Water Policy backed with an operational action plan in a time bound manner. State Water Policy has been adopted by the States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Goa, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and UTs of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. The Ministry of Water Resources has requested all other States for early formulation and adoption of the State Water Policy in the 12th Meeting of National Water Board held on 5.1.2007.

Statement

Salient features of National Water Policy, 2002

- Water is a precious national resource and its planning, development and management should be governed by national perspectives.

- A well developed information system for water related data at national/ State level should be established with a network of data banks and data bases integrating and strengthening the existing Central and State-level agencies.
- Water resources development and management will have to be planned for a hydrological unit. Appropriate river basin organisations should be established for the planned development and management of the river basins.
- Water should be made available to water short areas by transfer from other areas including transfer from one river basin to another, after taking into account the requirements of the areas/basins.
- Planning of water resources development projects should, as far as possible, be for multi-purpose with an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach having regard to human and ecological aspects including those of disadvantaged sections of the society.
- In the allocation of water, first priority should be given for drinking water, followed by irrigation, hydro-power, ecology, agro-industries and non-agricultural industries, navigation and other uses, in that order.
- The exploitation of ground water should be regulated with reference to recharge possibilities and consideration of social equity. The detrimental environmental consequences of over-exploitation of ground water need to be effectively prevented.
- Careful planning is necessary to ensure that construction and rehabilitation activities proceed simultaneously. A skeletal national policy on resettlement and rehabilitation needs to be formulated such that project affected persons share the benefits through proper rehabilitation.
- Adequate emphasis needs to be given to the physical and financial sustainability of existing water resources facilities. There is need to ensure that the water charges for various users should be fixed such as to cover at least the operation and maintenance charges initially and a part of the capital costs subsequently.
- Management of the water resources for diverse uses should

incorporate a participatory approach by involving users and other stakeholders alongwith various governmental agencies, in an effective and decisive manner.

- Private sector participation should be encouraged in planning, development and management of water resources projects for diverse uses, wherever feasible.
- Both surface water and ground water should be regularly monitored for quality. Effluents should be treated to acceptable levels and standards before discharging them into natural streams. Minimum flow should be ensured in the perennial streams for maintaining ecology.
- Efficieny of utilization should be improved in all the diverse uses of water and conservation consciousness promoted through education, regulation, incentives and disincentives.
- There should be a Master Plan for flood control and management for each flood prone basin. In flood control and management, the strategy should be to reduce the intensity of floods.
- Land erosion by sea or river should be minimized by suitable cost-effective measures. Indiscriminate occupation of, and economic activity in coastal areas and flood plain zones should be regulated.
- Needs of drought-prone areas should be given priority in the planning of project for development of water resources. These areas should be made less vulnerable through various measures.
- The water sharing/distribution amongst the States should be guided by a national perspective with due regard to water resources availability and needs within the river basin.
- Training and research efforts should be intensified as an integral part of water resources development.

Inter-State river water dispute

3656. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any river project whose catchment area spreadsover more than two States have entered into controversy during the last 10 years and are lying pending at various appellate bodies;